Medford, Oregon, May 28, 1932.

Rev.W.Courtland Robinson,D.D.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Editor:

Your editorial: "What Shall Be Done?" and especially the reference to a "ring," encourages me to trouble you with my own most painful experience and to solicit from you some advice in the matter. It may throw light on conditions more general:

In the spring of 1929 I foolishly gave way to a desire to see the Pacific coast. To that end I corresponded with a college class mate who was and is Executive Secretary for the Synod of Oregon. He would doubtless know conditions and would frankly advise against it if opportunities were not favorable. He, however gave a hearty invitation and offered an opening which, though not large, gave splended opportunities. We thereupon sold our furniture, etc. even got rid of most of my books and came out to Oregon.

In Portland we were entertained at the home of the "friend" until we motored out to the new "charge." Evening devotions gave us pause indeed. A passage of Scripture was read and at once ridiculed for the very idea of any inspiration. Needless to say we did not enjoy the devotions. On reaching the "charge" we found it small indeed and not at all what had been promised. We had been lead to believe that the people were most spiritual in that they would not be a Sunday without services and we were fairly rushed across the continent to avoid such misfortune. We found instead no spirituality at all. The work had so run down that they could not possibly support a man but had gotten rid of the predecessor to make room for an ex-minister of another denomination who was in the lumber business in a small way and wanted to serve that church free of charge, theregy aiming to get into the Presbyterian Church. So, instead of being wanted immediately we were not wanted atx all. The active members, that is those who attended at least occasionally, were comprised of the families of the officers of the church, six in number. Moreover they each fairly boasted that they were not Presbyterian since each had come from some other denomination. On inquiry as to the age of the church I was told about thirty years old. Then I said: "Well since you all came from other denmonations you evidently came by letter. Where are the fruits of the labors of this church, folks who are Christian because of it?" Answer: "There are none." Imagine! "It is a strange thing, but of all those who joined the church xxxxx under your predecessor not one ever once entered the church again after so joining." Imagine the reception of the gospel under such conditions. The Baptist in the group, about the only one who ahd any spirituality, said frankly: "It would have made no difference who came, Paul himself could not have worked himself in here."-----But think of a man who will lure a college class mate across the continent into a condition like that!

The end of distressing surprises, however, was not yet. We had opportunity to hear the Ex.Sec. preach in orthodox churches and he preached on sin and salvation as orthodoxly as any one. The note of sincerety was sadly lacking. It is doubtful that any can be dictated to as to their faith, but certainly honesty in the matter should be expected.

Natunally we sought other churches. Repeatedly we felt sure that a call was impending, people saying: "Oh we wish you people wife and I,"would come." Only to find in every instance a sudden change in attitude and loss of the call. We found at last that he who had lied to me was now busy lying about me. One of the stock

fibs being: "That fellow has never stayed more than a year in any church he has ever had." In some churches too the Ex.Sec. has key men, or a key man of the modernistic stripe whose influence is enough to queer things for us.------We have come to practical destitution.---- One of the hardest burdens to bear is the pension. The men of the Church have said it with millions of dollars that the underpaid and distressed minister should be taken care of. The present system is much in need of correction there, especially in a time of depression like this, for the man without charge, to hold his pension at all, must pay the same as the man drawing $ 5000.00 salary. It is a splendid system for churches financially strong, but the weaker the church financially the harder the burden. That is one reason for increased groupings, also for increased vacancies. I kow of six vacant churches who do not intend to call pastors are are being supplied by most any Tom Dick or Harry, not excluding the Holy Rollers if the preaching is free.

There is a great deal of complaint about conditions here to the extent that women have actually organized to pray for a change in the office of the Ex.Sec. Here are some of the reasons:

His insincerety is too evident. He is too overbearing and conceited. Committees exist in name only. I have heard chairman say: "There is no committee, there is only T--." On another occasion the chairman said: "What a farce, for us to come all this distance,"--they had come about 75 miles through the mountains,--"simlpy to say yes to what has already been done." He has, as far as possible, put the vacancies and supply committees out of acual service and worked himself into a condition that is a positive crime against Presbyterianism. A few years ago he insisted that a certain church call a certain minister to their vacant pulpit simply and alone on his extravagant recomendation. The elders ~~insted~~ insisted on their right to inquiry and investigation. They found that the man was not fit for the ministry and that his presbytery was about ready to put him out of it. As the elders say: "And yet he tried his best to force him on to us for a pastor. We will never forget it." But they do not make this thing known.-----Near here is a church vacant for some time with one of those "key men." They seem ready to do something in the near future. Some asked: "Why do you not give Mr. Oldenburg a chance? He would make a good man for you." Answer: "Dr.T. has recommended--so-and so--a Methodist." And this all without the least consultation of the committee of presbytery and a church that does not receive Nationla Mission.

Back of it all is "The ring." For others are helping him in that painful activity against me. Men say, "We can do nothing, for the gang in Portland would stand by him no matter what he does." I have seen him lolling on the beach, saying: "Great old ocean. It can take care of itself, but the Synod of Oregon can not." I reminded: "But you have nothing to do with self-supporting churches." "I have too. They are all under my jurisdiction and all must report to me." The churches that he previously served did not fare especially well under his ministry. One of the most orthodox men was removed from the position to make room for him by those who wanted to use him in his present activities.---- Yes, he subscribes for the Presbyterian and keeps it always in plain view. Fell sure tha he is the author of the article about ten years of service that appeared in your bolums not long ago without name of author.

Our condition is distressing financially. What can one do? More especially, the conditions in the synod are shocking and ought not to continue. Again:- What can be done to remedy? I have thought of writing up the matter without mentioning location or names and using a nom de plume. It would bring the matter to discussion and if "the gang" feels offended they would have to xxx show their hand.and reveal themselves. Would you accept such an article?

The question might arise why I did not get out of Oregon. Several reasons. One as I have told the culprit, I felt sure that the better man within him would finally rise to the surface. Mistake.---I have said to others that if he were converted he could do much good. One of our leading ladies thought that there is not enough to him to be of any value even then. I have more faith than that. But circumstances will not permit me to trust in that for a change in our distressing conditions.---Had it not been for these distressing times we would have fared better.---At any rate we do xx not have the funds now to make long journeys shoudl opportunity offer. Find also that our Ex.Sec. has influence with those in like position in surrounding states. That influence is not used to my benefit.

Seeking for an explanation of such strange moral turpitude - a man after so many years of preaching capable of such action - it seems to be physical. Authorities insist that those suffering from organic disease have a strong tendency to unbruthfulness.---He has had a number of operations for his and he feels that it will finally "get him." There is no doubt of it, had he been under the influence of men of faith that faith would have overcome the "tendency." With the breakdown of faith the "tendency" has no check except exposure.

Any answer to this would indeed be gratefully received.

Yours "For Christ and the Church,"

E.A. Oldenburg.

Rev.E.A.Oldenburg,
229, N. Bartlett Ave.,
Medford, Oregon.

P.S. Sorry we cannot now spare the money to renew our subscription. Should you still kindly continue to send Kindly change address to that given above.

E.A.OL

P.S.S. In re pensions:-- Our pension system was modeled after that of large industrial concerns, like U.S. Steel.-- In these concerns, however, its whole financial strength is back of every pension carried. With our system each unit carries its own and naturally it works without friction only where there is sufficient financial strength. In these days at least half of the churches and the ministers find it a distinct burden to carry and many salaries are again going below the $1200.00 minimum. The great heart of the Church that supplied a fund of now $ 31,600,000.00 will surely find a way of some relief here when the real facts are fully known.

E.A.O.

The New York Times
Times Square

Dec. 1, 1932.

Rev. W. C. Robinson,
Box 23,
Delhi, New York.

My dear Sir:

I write merely to say that you are at liberty to reprint the editorial about President Patten, as you request, it being understood that credit will be given to The New York Times.

Very truly yours,

Rollo Ogden.

RO S

January 24, 1933.

Mr. C. S. Newsom,
Wattsburg,
Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Newsom:

Your letter of January 21st is before me. I regret that I am unable to answer your query relative to the Zionist Movement. Probably Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York City would be able to give you the information you desire. He has been very active though not without some contention.

Yours very sincerely,

WOR*E

Wattsburg, Pa., Jan 21, 1933.

The Presbyterian,
Phila. Pa.

Gentlemen:

Will you please tell me how I can find out the present status and condition of the Zionist Movement in Palestine, its success or lack of it, present development, etc., etc.?

Can you give me the address of the headquarters of the Zionist Movement in the U. S.?

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely, C. S. Newsom

C. S. Newsom, subscriber.